

Representative Ezra Kanoho leaves the House of Representatives after 20 years of compassionate service to his constituents on Kauai, as well as the entire State of Hawaii. His legislative career culminated as Chair of the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources and championed legislation promoting conservation and preservation of resources throughout the State.

During his Closing Day remarks, Representative Kanoho graciously thanked many people, but emphasized his utmost thanks to his wife of 55 years for being behind him, "1000 percent" throughout his tenure in the House of Representatives. He reminisced about stepping into the House Chamber in January 1987, in awe of the richness, symbolism, and history, and came to the realization that he too, would be a part of history.

Representative Kanoho, who expressed that he has been honored and humbled to serve as a Representative, will be missed by his colleagues in the House, but has pledged to remain an active member of the community.



Representative Dennis Arakaki dedicated his 20 year tenure in the Legislature to healthcare and caring for Hawaii's children and elderly population. During his legislative career, Representative Arakaki was dedicated to serving committees related to health, human services, and housing, and culminated as Chair of the Committee on Health. He sought to make improvements in the areas of long-term care, dental health, childhood obesity, and universal healthcare.

During the closing day ceremony, Representative Arakaki shared a message that he shares every year: "A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." His colleagues would all agree that he made a difference in the lives of *many* children.

Representative Arakaki closed by stating, "We (as legislators) are indeed the trustees of the resources and the well-being of and for the people of Hawaii."

Representative Heléne Hale is a true matriarch of democracy in Hawaii. Her political career spans over 50 years, beginning in 1954 when she was elected to the Hawaii County Board of Supervisors. She was also a delegate to the 1978 Constitutional Convention.

Representative Hale began her legislative career in 2000, at the youthful age of 82. Her career culminated as Chair of the Committee on International Affairs. She will continue to pursue her interest in international relations with the Hawaii Island Chapter of the United Nations Association and the Island of Hawaii High School Model of the United Nations.

During her closing day speech, Representative Hale shared that her goal for Hawaii is to be an example to the world for sustainable development, cultural renaissance, and world peace.



Representative Brian Schatz said farewell to the House by sharing 8 things he learned during his 8 years as a Representative:

- I've learned that your enemies can be right, and your friends can be wrong.
- I've learned that a 79-year old man can hit a golf ball 279 yards.
- I've learned from that same 79-year old man how to behave like a gentleman. Don't always do so, but now I know how.
- I've learned that loud is not the same as persuasive.
- I've learned never to underestimate anyone.
- I've learned that no matter how small an issue may appear to you, it's a very big deal to someone.
- I've learned business and environmental needs are usually not at odds.
- I've learned that if you want to interpret the Hawaii Constitution, the best way is to lean over and ask Heléne Hale what she meant when she wrote it.